

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) An acetabular implant for hip prosthesis, said implant comprising:

an insert (2) having a spherical internal cavity (2a), an upper exterior surface, and a lower exterior surface, and

a hemispherical kernel (4) mounted in said insert, the hemispherical kernel having an internal ~~spherical~~ cavity (4a) adapted to cooperate with a femoral head for universal movement of the femoral head within said internal spherical cavity of said hemispherical kernel,

wherein said hemispherical kernel has universal movement within said insert about two orthogonally intersecting lines in a plane defined by said lower exterior surface of said insert, and said hemispherical kernel is a figure of rotation about an axis (x-x') orthogonal to the plane,

said axis intersecting said hemispherical kernel at a central region of said hemispherical kernel which is thinner than a peripheral region of said hemispherical kernel, the thickness

of said hemispherical kernel increasing progressively from said central region toward said peripheral region,

wherein a center of rotation (01) of said spherical internal cavity of said insert is spaced from the plane at a first height (01) and a center of rotation (02) of said internal spherical cavity of said hemispherical kernel is spaced from the plane at a second height (02), the first and second heights being different.

12. (currently amended) The acetabular implant as claimed in claim 11, wherein said cup has an axis of symmetry (x-x'), and further comprising a hemispherical cup (1) adapted to be fixed to the bottom of an acetabular cavity of an iliac bone, said hemispherical cup receiving said insert for rotation of said insert relative to said cup about an axis of symmetry about which said insert is symmetrical.

13-15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) The acetabular implant as claimed in claim 11, wherein the thickness of said hemispherical kernel increases progressively from said central region up to an opening of said internal spherical cavity.

17. (new) The acetabular implant as claimed in claim 12, wherein the center of rotation (01) of the spherical internal cavity of said insert and the center of rotation (02) of the internal spherical cavity of said kernel are offset from the axis of symmetry of said cup.

18. (new) An acetabular implant for hip prosthesis, comprising:

an insert (2) having a spherical internal cavity (2a);
and

a hemispherical kernel (4) having an internal cavity (4a) adapted to cooperate with a femoral head for universal movement of the femoral head within said internal cavity of said kernel,

said hemispherical kernel (4) having universal movement within said insert (2), and

a center of rotation (01) of said spherical internal cavity of said insert being spaced apart from a center of rotation (02) of said internal spherical cavity of said hemispherical kernel.

19. (new) The acetabular implant as claimed in claim 18, wherein,

a plane defines a lower surface of said hemispherical kernel,

a first axis orthogonal to the plane corresponding to the center of rotation (02) of said internal spherical cavity of said hemispherical kernel is offset from a second axis (x-x') orthogonal to the plane at a center of an outer perimeter of the lower exterior surface of said hemispherical kernel defining an axis of external symmetry.

20. (new) An acetabular implant for hip prosthesis, comprising:

an insert (2) having a spherical internal cavity (2a) with a center of rotation (01);

a hemispherical kernel (4) having an internal cavity (4a) with a center of rotation (02),

said hemispherical kernel being adapted to cooperate with a femoral head for universal movement of the femoral head within said internal cavity of said kernel,

said hemispherical kernel having universal movement within said insert (2); and

a hemispherical cup (1) adapted to be fixed to the bottom of an acetabular cavity of an iliac bone,

said cup having an axis of symmetry (x-x'),

said cup receiving said insert for rotation of said insert relative to said cup about the axis of symmetry,

wherein the center of rotation (01) of the spherical internal cavity of said insert and the center of rotation (02) of the internal spherical cavity of said kernel are offset from the axis of symmetry of said cup.